

**Report from Forensic Issues Plank
Washington State Summit of Mental Health Consumers & Survivors
Kennewick, Washington * September 16, 2006**

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Outcome # 1: Advocates and advocacy will be an integral part of being involved with the criminal justice system for consumers

Strategies/Next Steps:

1. Peer support counselors should be available at every point of contact in the criminal justice system (using GAINS center 5 point intercept model)
2. Contact legislators with good information/statistics re: consumers and criminal justice system
3. Advocate for increased funding for Regional Support Networks (RSN)
4. Advocate for adequate housing for consumers convicted of crimes especially sex crimes etc.
5. Lettering writing/email campaigns targeting criminal justice/mental illness issues

Measurement:

1. Five criminal justice peer support counselors in each county with two years
2. Each RSN area sends 5 people to advocate for the criminal justice plan each legislative session
3. Funding for M.I. housing will increase each year
4. (a). Bills relating to criminal justice issues (improvements) are passed
(b). Washington Health Empowerment (WHEN) contacts all legislators each session re: criminal justice issues

Outcome # 2: Training

Personnel in all aspects of the Criminal Justice system (using GAINS center 5 point intercept model) will be adequately trained in how to respond to the specific needs of individuals with mental illness who become engaged in the criminal justice system

Strategies/Next Steps:

1. Law Enforcement Training Academies address the training issues identified such as how to respond to consumers in crisis, learning to differentiate between various mental illnesses, verbal de-escalation techniques, diversity training, side effects of medications and why consumers choose not to take meds etc.

Measurement:

1. 50% of all criminal justice (police, probation/parole, corrections etc) and court staff are trained in mentally ill offender issues in 2 years and 80% are trained in 4 years
2. Mentally ill offender training is a standard of continuing education requirements

Outcome # 3: All consumers who become involved in the criminal justice system in Washington state continue to receive continuous treatment for the disability for which they were receiving care in the community

Strategies/Next Steps:

1. All Washington jails and prisons meet federal court guidelines/standards for adequate mental healthcare (Ruiz vs. Estelle etc)

Measurement: All jails and prison healthcare providers in Washington State are accredited by one or more accrediting board

Outcome # 4: A better system of community re-entry upon release from correctional facilities will be in place so that consumers are more likely to connect to services upon release and less likely to recidivate

Strategies/Next Steps:

1. Pre discharge planning for all mentally ill offenders leaving Washington state correctional facilities
2. Advocate through DOP and State Office of Mental for handing to staff additional discharge planning position
3. Collaborate with wardens/key personnel at various correctional facilities to gain needed support for logistical implementation of discharge planners

Measurement:

- (a). 60% of all consumers leaving correctional institutions have mental health issues addressed specifically in their plans within 2 years and 80% are addressed within 4 years
- (b). 70% of all exiting offenders with mental illness have medical assistance and benefits reinstated at discharge